**ELA Team**

**Team Focus**: Reading Comprehension

**Standard**: DesCartes’ Goal 2 – Students Apply Thinking Skills to Their Reading

**Assessment Directions**: Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question. Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage.

**Assessment Prompt**: Various Statements and Passages

**Assessment Rubric**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number Correct** | **Scale** |
| 5-6 | Proficient |
| 3-4 | Partially Proficient |
| 0-2 | Beginning |

**Data Timeline**: Give Assessment as a Warm-up this week. Collect and compile data by Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

**Reading Comprehension**

This test measures your ability to understand what you read. You may be asked to:

• identify the relationship between sentences.

• distinguish between the main and secondary ideas.

• make inferences.

**Directions:** Read the statement or passage and then choose the best answer to the question.

Answer the question on the basis of what is stated or implied in the statement or passage**.**

1. Myths are stories, the products of fertile imagination, sometimes simple, often containing

profound truths. They are not meant to be taken too literally. Details may sometimes

appear childish, but most myths express a culture’s most serious beliefs about human

beings, eternity, and God.

The main idea of this passage is that myths:

(a) are created primarily to entertain young children.

(b) are purposely written for the reader.

(c) provide the reader with a means of escape from reality.

(d) illustrate the values that are considered important to a society.

2. Australia has many strange beasts, one of the oddest of which is the koala. Perfectly

adapted to one specific tree, the eucalyptus, this living teddy bear does not need anything

else, not even a drink! The moisture in the leaves is just right for the koala, making it the

only land animal that doesn’t need water to supplement its food (from *That Astounding*

*Creator Nature* by Jean George).

The passage indicates that the koala:

(a) is a member of the bear family that does not need moisture to live.

(b) gets all of its nourishment from the eucalyptus tree.

(c) adapts itself to any surroundings.

(d) is the only animal that does not need food to live.

3. It is early summer. August’s long-awaited vacation time still seems ages away, but by the

same token, its torpor-producing heat and mildew-generating humidity have not yet arrived.

Instead, these cool, end-of-June days practically insist on getting the picnic season under

way immediately. But, alas, there is a difficulty: alfresco dining has a bad name among us.

Tenth-rate hot dogs, carbonized chicken parts, and beef a- la- charcoal lighter are

principally what comes to mind when we hear the words “outdoor food” (from *A Spanish*

*Picnic* by Robert Capon)

CPT Review 04/17/01 2

The passage suggests that the author believes that:

(a) picnicking in August is long-awaited.

(b) August is better than June for a picnic.

(c) there are some negative aspects to eating outside.

(d) picnicking is better alfresco.

4. In embarking on the fight for independence, America faced formidable obstacles. The

Continental Congress did not have the authority to pass binding legislation or to impose

taxes. The new nation had no army and no navy, and its population numbered only 2.5

million people, 20 percent of whom were slaves. Britain, by contrast, was a mighty power

of 11 million people with the world’s best navy and a well-disciplined army. Fifty thousand

troops were in North America in 1778, and Britain hired thirty thousand German soldiers

to supplement its forces during the war (from *An American History* by Rebecca Brooks

Gruver).

What is the main point of the passage?

(a) Britain was a great power whose population out numbered that of America.

(b) America’s military forces were less experienced than Britain’s military.

(c) America’s Continental Congress had limited authority.

(d) As America was about to engage in its struggle for autonomy, it was faced with

arduous barriers.

**Directions:** Two underlined sentences are followed by a question or statement about them.

Read each pair of sentences and then choose the best answer to the question or the best

completion of the statement.

5. The Midwest is experiencing its worst drought in 15 years. Corn and soybean prices are

expected to be very high this year.

What does the second sentence do?

(a) It restates the idea found in the first.

(b) It states a result or effect of the statement in the first sentence.

(c) It gives an example of the statement in the first sentence.

(d) It analyzes the statement made in the first sentence.

6. The American prison system functions primarily to exact retribution. In Japan, the courts

are less concerned with sending people to jail than they are with rehabilitating them.

What does the second sentence do?

(a) It supports an idea found in the first sentence.

(b) It analyzes an idea stated in the first sentence.

(c) It states a contrast to the statement in the first sentence.

(d) It exemplifies an idea found in the first sentence